

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PCT 21026Y	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US03/08277	International filing date (day/month/year) 07 March 2003 (07.03.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 13 March 2002 (13.03.2002)

International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC

IPC(7): A61K 31/473 ; C07D 221/18 and US Cl.: 514/284 ; 546/77

Applicant

MERCK & CO., INC.

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I Basis of the report
 - II Priority
 - III Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV Lack of unity of invention
 - V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI Certain documents cited
 - VII Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 01 October 2003 (01.10.2003)	Date of completion of this report 11 May 2004 (11.05.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer Joseph McKane <i>Joseph Bell-Harrison</i> Telephone No. 571/272-1600

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet)(July 1998)

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

the international application as originally filed.
 the description:

pages 1-75 as originally filed
 pages NONE, filed with the demand
 pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.

the claims:

pages 76-92, as originally filed
 pages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 pages NONE, filed with the demand
 pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.

the drawings:

pages NONE, as originally filed
 pages NONE, filed with the demand
 pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.

the sequence listing part of the description:

pages NONE, as originally filed
 pages NONE, filed with the demand
 pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
 the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
 the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

contained in the international application in printed form.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages NONE
 the claims, Nos. NONE
 the drawings, sheets/fig NONE

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).
 ** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The question whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been and will not be examined in respect of:

the entire international application,
 claims Nos. 30

because:

the said international application, or the said claim Nos. _____ relate to the following subject matter which does not require international preliminary examination (*specify*):

the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. _____ are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

the claims, or said claims Nos. _____ are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

no international search report has been established for said claims Nos. 30

2. A ~~substantial~~ international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. STATEMENT**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>5, 7-20, 22-29, 31-41</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-4, 6, 21</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>5, 7-20, 22-29, 33-37, 40, 41</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-4, 6, 21, 31, 32, 38, 39</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-29, 31-41</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Claims 1-4, 6 and 21 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Rasmussen et al. (J. Med. Chem.).

Rasmussen et al. disclose Azasteroids : Structure-Activity relationship for inhibition of 5 alpha-reductase and of androgenic receptor binding. The compound no. 29 (see table III on page 2301) disclosed by Rasmussen et al. is detrimental to the novelty of instant claims.

Claims 1-4, 6, 21, 31, 32, 38 and 39 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over King et al. (U.S. Patent no. 5,187,278).

King et al. disclose 4-Aza-5alpha-androstan-3-one steroids having potent inhibitory activity against 5-alpha reductase. The compounds disclosed in examples 5 and 6 (see column 6) by King et al. differ from the instant compounds in having bromine or iodine at 2nd position of the tetracyclic ring instead of fluorine. However, fluorine, bromine and iodine are all halogens and therefore, substituting one halogen with another halogen at 2nd position will not affect the utility of the compound and therefore, is not considered an inventive step.

Claims 5, 7-20, 22-29, 33-37, 40 and 41 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the instant compounds of formula (I), pharmaceutical compositions containing these compounds and a method of using these compounds.

Claims 1-29 and 31-41 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), and thus have industrial applicability because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----

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